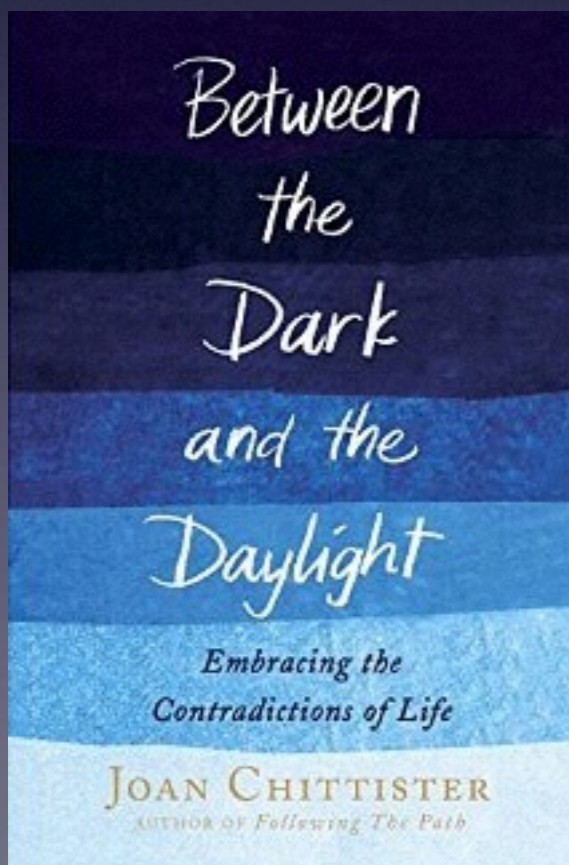


# Spiritual Darkness Two Studies

ACTS  
Fall 2014



St David's United Church  
Calgary

# Opening

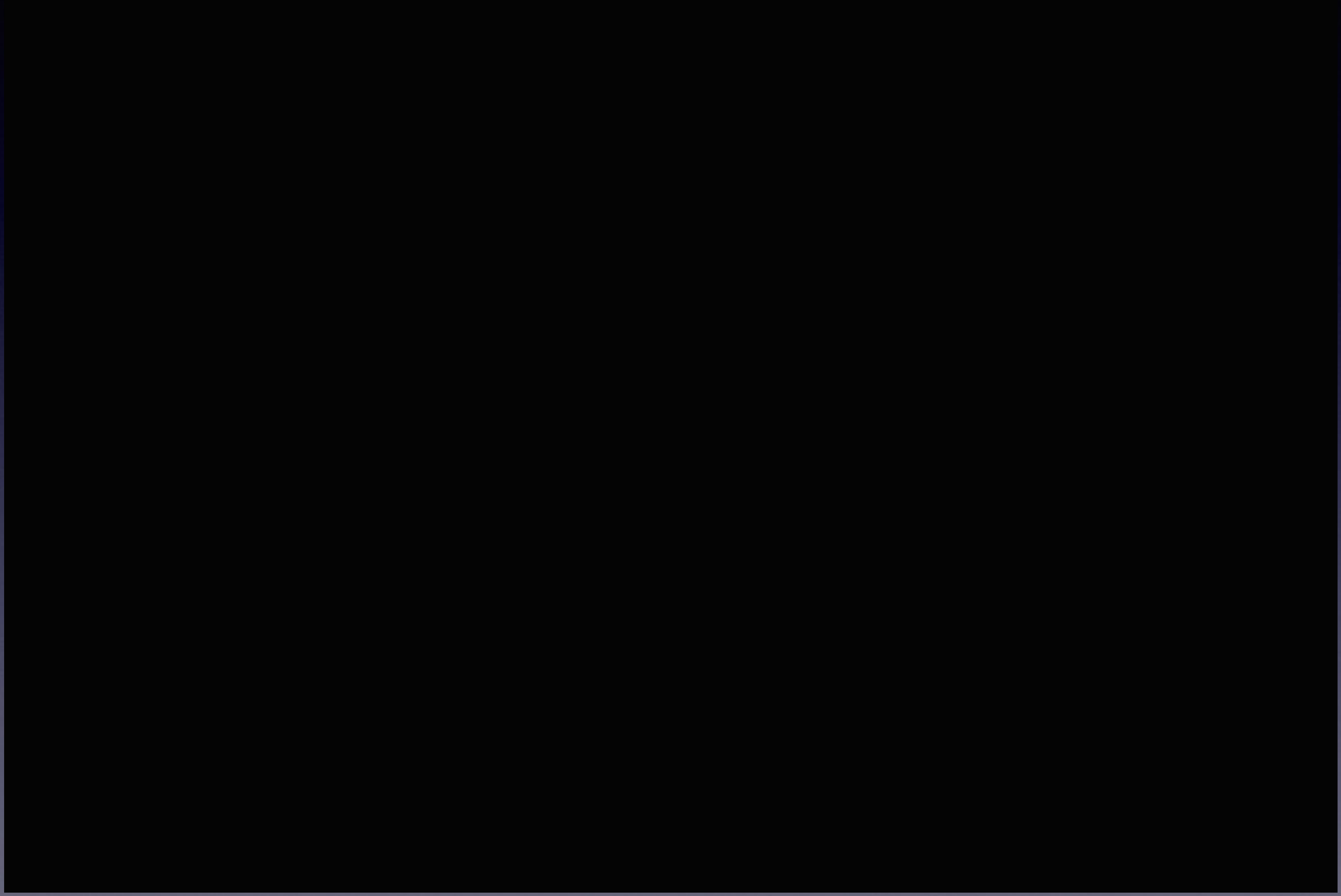
The Darkness of God  
a reading from TS Elliot's

Part III of "East Coker" from "Four Quartets" by T.S. Eliot.

3m 38s

by "Metabob"

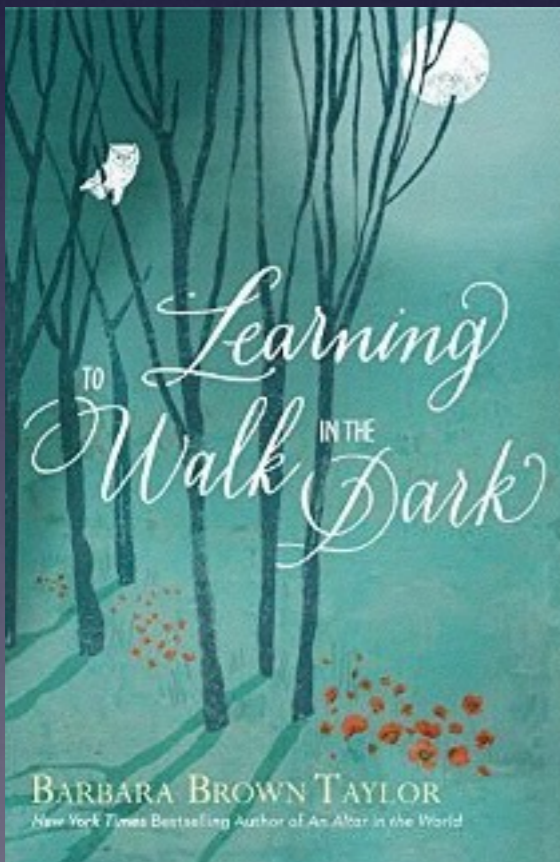
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCU\\_kj-uGXs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCU_kj-uGXs)



# Learning to Walk in the Dark

## Session 2

- Opening
- Ch 1
- Ch 2
- Break
- Discussions
- Closing



# Learning to Walk in the Dark

## Intro - Lunar vs Full-Solar Spirituality

- Our "programming" as youth impacts our entire lives unless we come to challenge it with more nuanced, mature thought.
- Christian thinking thrives on dividing reality into dualisms or opposing pairs like good/evil; church/world; spirit/flesh; sacred/profane; light/dark -
- (and yet) Spiritual reality is not divided into halves, but pairs existing in balance, not opposites.
- We need to learn to "walk in the dark" as well as to "walk in the light"

# Super Moon Eclipse - 27 Sep 2015



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I71B65nipIM>

# Learning to Walk in the Dark

## Ch 1 - Who's Afraid of the Dark?

- There is something promising in the phases of the moon - now you see her - now you don't...
- There are stages of twilight and dawn and stages of the moon. What does that imply for our spiritual growth as Christians?
- Applying this to Christian teaching - for example "spiritual warfare" - at first it makes sense, then, with experience, it begins to develop cracks

# Learning to Walk in the Dark

## Ch 1 - Who's Afraid of the Dark?

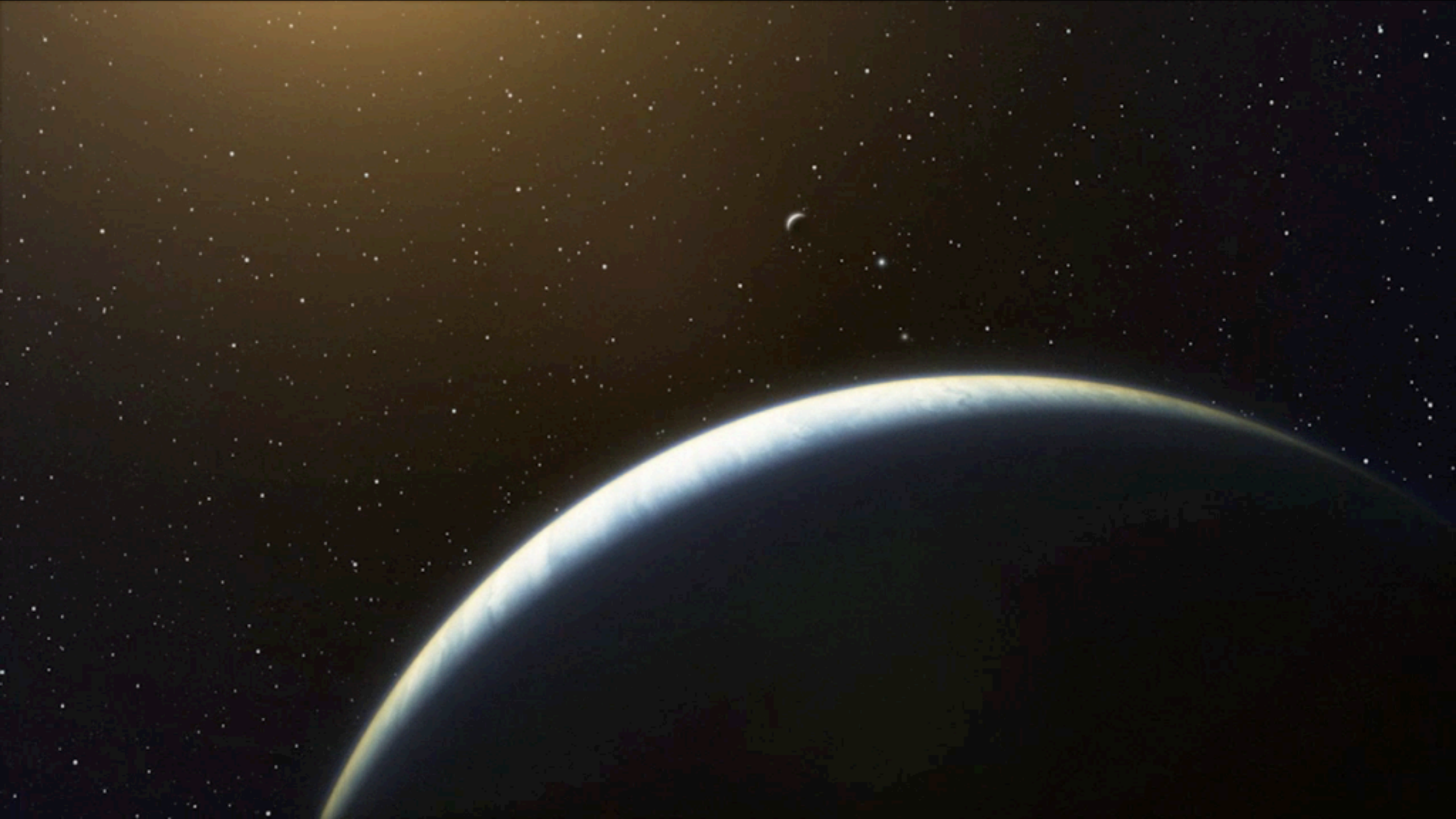
- Consider the pros and cons of protecting children from diseases, or evil.
- How do we develop the courage to walk in the dark unless we're asked to practice walking in the dark?



# Learning to Walk in the Dark

## Ch 1 - Video

- The author talks about the awe and wonder of the heavens at night “in the dark”. Something we do not notice in the city.
- Here’s a peek at working astronomers from ESO sharing their awe and discoveries “in the dark”.
- [www.eso.org/public/videos/esocast75a/](http://www.eso.org/public/videos/esocast75a/)
- 7m



# Learning to Walk in the Dark

## Ch 2 - The Fear of the Lord

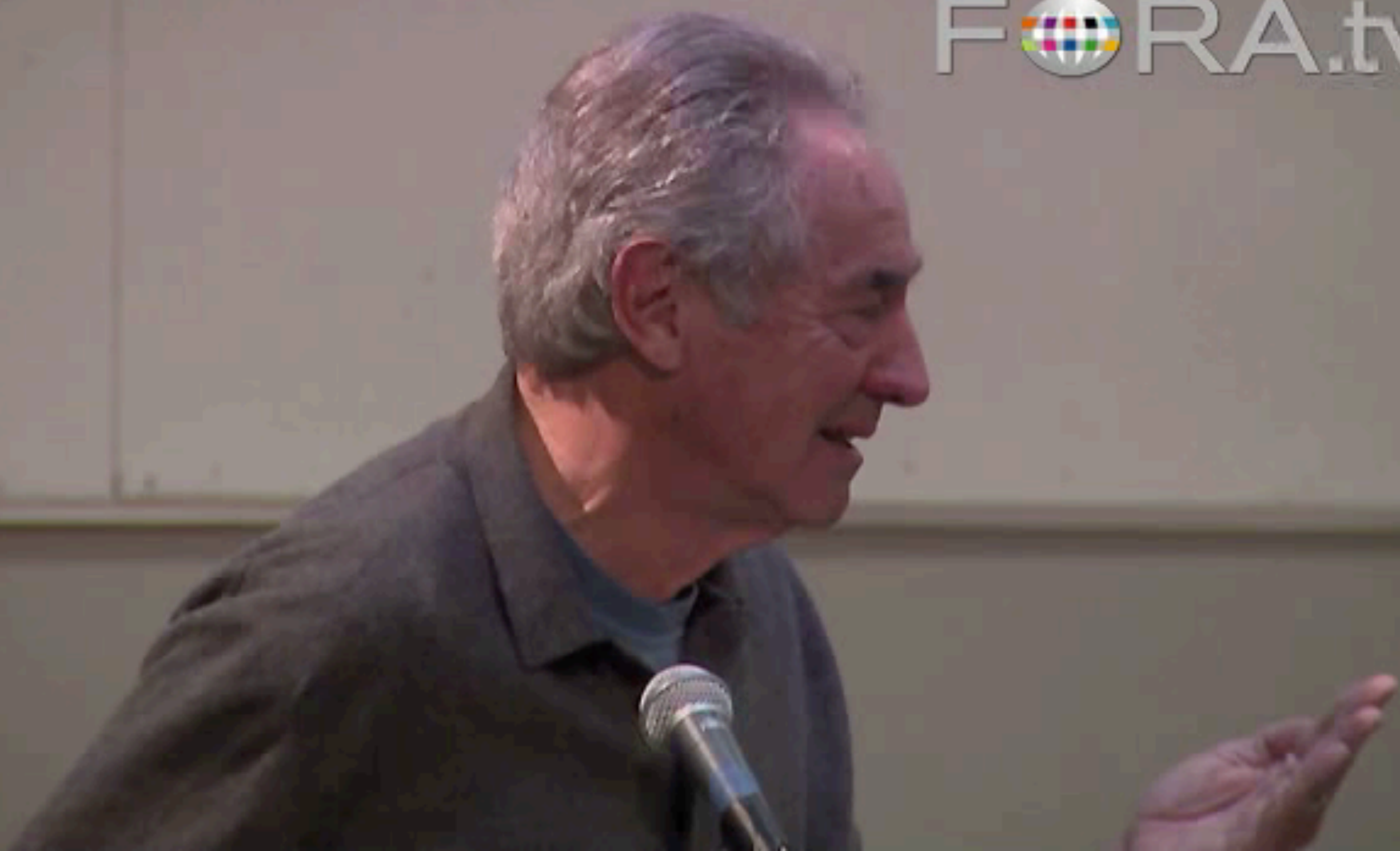
- There are biblical precedents for both "darkness" and "lightness" Christianity. For the author there was:
  - Part One - the local Baptist, then the university church she attended.
  - Part Two - the jazz club in Underground Atlanta. Basically, she found the same clientele in both places - "consecrated wine/draft beer" - is there really a difference in terms of customer needs?
- To be human is to live in both sunlight and moonlight.

# Learning to Walk in the Dark

## Ch 2 - Video

- Sam Keen is a philosopher, professor and author, married to Patricia de Jong, senior minister at First Congregational Church in Berkley.
- Here he is speaking about the church in present times, of how change is coming out of the dark, “in the absence of God”.
- [http://library.fora.tv/2010/03/11/Sam\\_Keen\\_In\\_The\\_Absence\\_of\\_God#k6mAPzDR\\_LGbP85fZ.99](http://library.fora.tv/2010/03/11/Sam_Keen_In_The_Absence_of_God#k6mAPzDR_LGbP85fZ.99) 12 minute excerpt

FORA.tv



BREAK

# Discussion

1. Compare your stages of spiritual experience with that of the author.
2. What suggestions would you give to support those engaged in spiritual growth leadership in our faith community?

# Closing

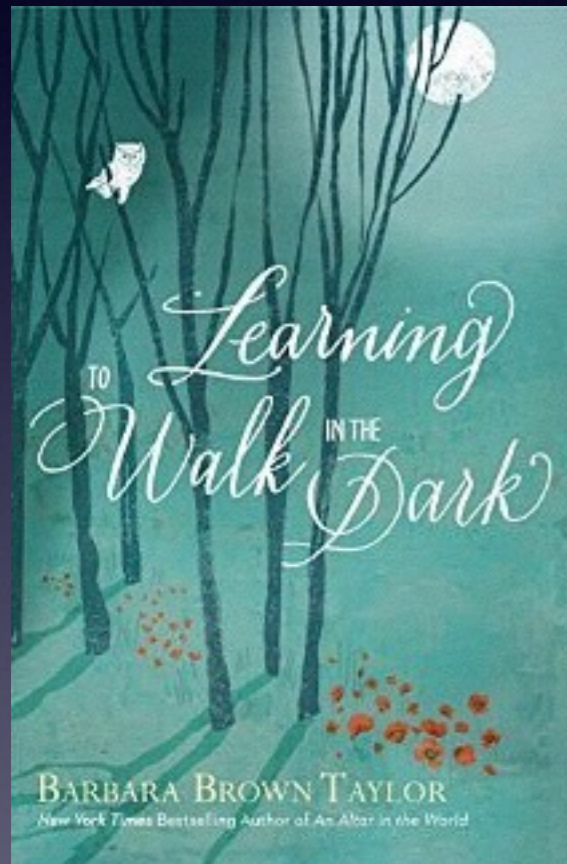
Gospel song  
God Walks the Dark Hills  
3m 35s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3GZwyJjGc0>





# Learning to Walk in the Dark



## Next Readings

Ch 3. Hampered By Brilliance

Ch 4. The Dark Emotions

## Study Website

<http://dark.stdavidscalgary.net>